

I no longer watch the "news" on TV because it is not news - it is all "hype." I am glad to get my news from print media. The situation is getting worse as the media consolidate. I no longer even own a TV because I am so disappointed with the quality of broadcasting in this country. I am highly educated and try to stay well-informed - and watching TV is not, in my opinion, a very good way to do so.

That said, I realize that many people get their only "news" from TV. The example of Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.